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LeMoyne-Owen College Partners with Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities at UTHSC to Increase Interest of Minority Students in Joining Field of Developmental Disabilities

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE (Nov. 8, 2016) LeMoyne-Owen College and the UT Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities, a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC), are partnering to generate more minority student interest in the developmental disability field, thanks to a \$40,000 National Training Initiative – Partnership Planning Grant. The award, made through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Community Living, is funded for one year.

"LeMoyne-Owen College looks forward to working closely with The Boling Center to increase our students' awareness of careers in the fields of developmental disabilities services and research," Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences Chair Michael Robinson said. "Ensuring robust and relevant career pathways for our students is one of our top priorities and this partnership is an excellent opportunity for our students to not only learn and prepare for advanced education and successful careers, but also to serve an important population."

"The Boling Center is very pleased to partner with LeMoyne-Owen College to bring together a diverse group of faculty, students and administrators to broaden career interests, knowledge base and cultural competence within the field of developmental disabilities," said Bruce Keisling, PhD, associate director of the UT Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities and principal investigator for the grant. "The objective is to create a sustainable partnership with a historically black college or university to serve as a pipeline for minority student recruitment, training in the disability field, and enhancing the cultural competency of all participants."

With this project, the Boling Center and LeMoyne-Owen hope to generate more African-American interest, develop more opportunities for people with disabilities, promote cultural competence in the disability field, and enhance the skills of faculty to deliver timely and culturally competent training and services to the students they serve.

About LeMoyne-Owen College

LeMoyne-Owen College is a four-year liberal arts institution in Memphis, Tennessee that prepares students to become critical thinkers, to lead productive and successful lives, and to make positive contributions to their respective communities. With a rich heritage that dates back to 1862, the College promotes diversity in its student body, staff and faculty and builds student confidence through a core curriculum that emphasizes a multicultural education. For more information about LeMoyne-Owen College, visit www.loc.edu.

For more information on the UT Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities, visit www.uthsc.edu/bcdd or follow the center on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BolingCenterForDevelopmentalDisabilities/>.

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